

critical digest

139 East 47 St. NY 17 NY
EL 5-6894 T.M. Kraus



Oct 17, 1960 Vol XII No 30 The Weekly NYC Theatre Newsletter Digest Service- 11th year- Published 52 weeks a year \$25 per year

This Week in NYC

Theatregoers had choice of 7 30 and 8 30 Wed curtains with the six David Merrick productions opening at the latter time. Newspaper display ads announced the return of the sextet to the original time, while the rest of the producers held to the experiment approved by the League of NY Theatres. See supplement for late news of special meeting of League of NY Theatres.

Plays

Laughs and Other Events closed after 7 performances. Herman Levin did agree prior to NY opening of Stanley Holloway show to allow star to use fragments from his "My Fair Lady" tunes... Camelot postponed NY debut from Nov 19 to Dec 3, adding two weeks to Boston tryout. Delay due to illness of co-author Alan Jay Lerner... Laurette production plans cancelled due to illness of Judy Holliday, who will undergo a throat operation in NY this week. Loss expected to be \$160,000... The Unsinkable Molly Brown reports a \$1 million advance sale... Send Me No Flowers is new title of "After I'm Gone" new comedy by Norman Barasch-Carroll Moore due Dec 3 at Atkinson starring David Wayne... The Gay Life new musical adaptation of "Affairs of Anatol" by Fay and Michael Kanin, music by Arthur Schwartz, lyrics by Howard Daitz to be produced in spring by Kermit Bloomgarden.

Players

Margot Moser subbing for two weeks for vacationing Pamela Charles, My Fair Lady... Carol Lawrence returned to West Side Story after four weeks of illness, Carol Taylor subbed... William Bendix to replace Jackie Gleason, Take Me Along, Oct 24... Liam Clancy and Stefan Giersch signed for Little Moon of Alban... Christine Norden replaced Jerri Archer, Tenderloin... Wendy Nickerson, Urylee Leonards joined Wildcat... Seth Edwards, age 11, to be featured in Critic's Choice... Georgia Simmons joined All the Way Home... Celeste Holme may replace Shelley Winters, Invitation to a March, reports Zolotow, Times.

Award Dept

Catholic Actors' Guild "Gold Medal Award" presented to Helen Hayes Oct 17 at Hotel Commodore Dinner.

NYC Calendar

Tenderloin- 46th St 10/17. Robert Griffith-Harold Prince present new musical adaptation of Samuel Hopkins Adams novel with book by Jerome Weidman - George Abbott, music by Jerry Bock, lyrics by Sheldon Harnick, directed by George Abbott with Maurice Evans, Ron Husmann, Wynne Miller, Eileen Rodgers.

Darwin's Theories- Madison Ave Playhouse 10/18. Win Productions, Ltd. presents new revue with score and lyrics by Darwin Venneri, sketches and monologues by Alan Alda with Betty Guy, Albie Gay, Alda Venneri.

Face of a Hero- O'Neill- 10/20. Lester Osterman- presents new play by Robert L Joseph based on novel by Pierre Boule, directed by Alexander Mackendrick with Jack Lemmon, Albert Dekker, Russell Collins, George Grizzard.

Drama Desk

NY Critics Circle elected Tom Dash, Women's Wear, president; Frank Aston, World Telegram & Sun, vice president; Tom Wenning, Newsweek, treasurer, and George Freedley, NY Public Library, secretary.

Theatre TV Notes

Heaven Can Wait to be presented on CBS Show of Month Nov 19. Presented on Broadway in 1946 as "Wonderful Journey" for 9 performances, it was adapted for films under title "Here Comes Mr. Jordan."

Theatre Record Notes

The Unsinkable Molly Brown music banned for public presentation until three weeks after NY opening.

Theatre Film Notes

A Taste of Honey film version to be made by co-director Tony Richardson featuring 18 year old newcomer Rita Tushingham... The Live Wire film version of Garson Kanin's play to be presented by 20th Century Fox with Frankie Vaughan, Gary Crosby, Julie Newmar... Come Blow Your Horn new play by Neil Simon tested last summer at Bucks County Playhouse, New Hope, Penn by Mike Ellis, bought by Paramount prior to NY production due in Feb.

Off Broadway

The Idiot in final week of scheduled run, Man and Superman opening Oct 30 at Gate Repertory Company... HMS Pinafore in final week of scheduled run, plans to move Tyrone Guthrie production uptown cancelled due to Canadian commitments of many cast members... Roger Stevens' first Off Broadway production opens Nov 14, a twin bill of short plays by Molly Kazan, Rosemary and The Alligator, to be staged by Gerald Freedman, with Piper Laurie, Jo Van Fleet.

Vaughn plans to continue run at York despite unanimous con votes. \$4000 advance sale reported prior to opening of \$40,000 production. What a Killing a new musical with book by Frank Hebert, music and lyrics by George Harwell, directed by Bob Hamilton will be presented at York Dec 22 by Jack Collins, recently understudy to Jackie Gleason, Take Me Along.

Claude Gersene and Charles Saari added to Behind the Wall children's cast... Allen Joseph and John Scanlan joined The Mousetrap.

A Curious Evening with Gypsy Rose Lee composed of film clips, stills and commentary will be presented for 3 Mon eves-Oct 24, 31 Nov 7 at Cherry Lane.

ANTA Matinee Series opens fifth season at Theatre De Lys with triple bill presented this summer at White Barn Theatre, Westport, Conn. Staged by Dick Barr, plays include-Fam and Yam by Edward Albee, Ember's by Samuel Beckett and Nekros by Harry Tierney, Jr

Dead End revival is next Equity Library Theatre production Oct 25-30.

Road Shows

Lotte Lenya replaces Anna Sten, 3 Penny Opera, in Music Box, Los Angeles, Oct 18... I'm With You musical with Nat King Cole opens Oct 31 in San Francisco, skipping scheduled stop in Denver.

Cultural Theatre

Helen Hayes, Richard Rodgers, Reginald Allen of Lincoln Center, Angus Duncan, Actors Equity appointed to NY State Council of Arts to make survey of state's cultural resources and submit ways in which state could encourage appreciation and participation in fine and performing arts.

DIGESTS OF CURRENT NYC THEATRE REVIEWS

The Wall- Billy Rose Theatre- 10/11. 3 pros-all raves- Times, News, World Telegram & Sun- and 4 cons- Herald Tribune, Mirror, Post, Journal American- filed on Millard Lampell's adaptation of John Hersey's novel, presented by Kermit Bloomgarden -Billy Rose directed by Morton Da Costa with George C Scott, Yvonne Mitchell, Joseph Buloff, David Opatoshu. Affirmative voters raved for moving, terrifying play and excellent performances, while negative majority vetoed script for not being as moving as they thought it would be. Taubman, Times, cheered production which combined shattering power with searing compassion, strong raw meat with Mitchell's performance one that will linger long in his memory. Chapman, News, was moved by the blood chilling, shuddering, nauseating cruelty and terror, intensely acted by a splendidly chosen company, tensely and uncompromisingly directed. Aston, WTS , lauded it as the most stunning theatrical experience he has had in months, with the characters becoming universal in meaning; the play itself besides exhibiting dignity and weeping, is almost paralyzing. Dissenter group headed by Kerr, Herald Tribune, who thought the script showed truth, not art. Play is not a moving, lacerating, challenging event in theatre, but offers isolated illustrations of suffering instead of binding fast a single, unfolding emotional line, Herald Tribune man concluded. Coleman, Mirror, admitted it was harrowing play and blood chilling, but it failed to catch the larger implications of the tragedy. He felt one reason maybe that he has already read too much on the subject. Watts, Post, agreed with colleagues who found play not as moving as they thought it would be and who also complimented cast for the job they turned in under circumstances. Post aisle-sitter found it only occasionally the heart-breaking experience it should have been and lacking in the moving power of "Diary of Anne Frank." McClain, Journal American, placed some of blame on portrayal by Scott who was either miscast, mis-directed or wasn't trying, for he never came to life for a moment. Too much wailing and not enough genuine emotion, Journal American reviewer cited.

An Evening with Mike Nichols and Elaine May- Golden 10/8. 7 pros-unanimous- filed for two performer show with material written by stars, staged by Arthur Penn and presented by Alexander Cohen's "Nine O'Clock Theatre." Taubman, Times, enjoyed attractive comedians whose years in the night clubs have not given them a hard sheen, their material is full of casual surprises and unexpected chuckles. Kerr, Herald Tribune, rated their standards very high and predicted that readers will have a high time testing them for themselves, by the two magically inventive entertainers. Chapman, News, suggests that only Tennessee Williams might not like them, Grade A satirists. Coleman, Mirror, applauded wonderfully amusing, often stimulating and highly entertaining night of off-beat playgoing . Watts, Post, lauded the delightful two person, happy brilliant show, he also warned audience not to leave until final curtain call because several of the funniest bits came as encores. McClain, Journal American , agreed with Watts that May looks very much like Anne Bancroft, and also agreed that the two comics present two hours of as much hilarity as you can endure, merely magnificent he summed. Aston, World Telegram & Sun, loved the completely personal experience in the theatre, quiet, disciplined and wickedly intelligent. Producer Cohen hosted a pre-theatre supper party opening night at Sardi East as well as the after-theatre Shubert Alley block party for the Actors Fund.

Laughs and Other Events- Barrymore-10/10/15. 3 mild pros- Times, News, World Telegram & Sun- and 3 mild cons- Herald Tribune, Mirror, Post, Journal American- filed on one man show of Stanley Holloway, presented by Martin Tahse, staged by Tony Charmoli. All agreed that English star was charming, but majority thought material was slim for a full evening of theatre at high prices. Pro side headed by Taubman, Times, who recommended it for those who languish for vaudeville in the flesh by a gallant 70 year old trouper with a serviceable voice and faultless timing , though critic did find material rarely more than mild stimulants. Chapman, News, marked Holloway as one of the most charming entertainers in his experience, just as genial as anybody can be all the time. Critic suggested merger of two shows- Laughs and Other Events and An Evening With Mike Nichols and Elaine May each would be better with the addition and the idea is flawless with each running twice as long as they would be themselves. Aston, WTS, praised piano duo and banjoists for the fine collaboration, all staged handsomely. Dissenter Kerr, Herald Tribune, admitted the man was charming, but the cause is lost; an entertainment created for friendly family groups who no longer go to the theatre. Coleman, Mirror, felt though show was like a trip to England the sameness of the material did him in a bit, even when so gifted a performer as Holloway is doing it. Herridge, Post, agreed man was charming and in good spirit, but found the material weak, dated and special , with even star's masterly delivery not hiding fact that this is a small show for the money. McClain, Journal American, rated it slick production, but not sustaining enough for a full evening in a big Broadway theatre.

Kittiwake Island- Martinique-10/12. 5 cons- unanimous-Times, Herald Tribune, Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun- filed on new musical with book and lyrics by Arnold Sundgaard, music by Alec Wilder presented by Joseph Beruh-Lawrence Carra, directed by Carra with Kathleen Murray, Joe Lautner, and G. Wood. Some found likeable songs in score, but there were few other kind words for book, lyrics and direction. Taubman, Times, rated book trouble the major fault, the kind of plot that experienced writers should have hidden from . The entertainers he rated agreeable, otherwise he suggested that audiences should leave Kittiwake Island to the birds. Crist, Herald Tribune, feels that musical comedy is not the experienced authors' forte , with the amazing thing about the entire production is that everyone involved plays it straight instead of finding some fun in the situation. Six piece orchestra often overpowers singers in some soothng numbers, but nothing memorable Herald Tribune arts editor added. Watts, Post , is sure it is the only musical comedy with a song entitled "Oceanography and Old Astronomy" and the only one whose plot is concerned with an ornithologist's determination to prove that Audubon was correct in believing the "smew" could be found in America. Often, he continued, it seemed more embarrassing than anything else, being almost unbearably cute and coy in its endeavor to simulate the high spirits of an academic frolic. Aston, WTS, pardoned all concerned and urged them to try again. McClain, Journal American, marked it a modest disaster, a dreary script with never distinguished music and some engaging people.

((Late Reviews on Supplement))





OUTER BROADWAY
THEATRE LETTER

College ----- Community ----- Summer

Oct 17, 1960 Vol XII No 30 The Weekly Supplement of "Critical Digest" 139 E 47, NYC El 5-6894-\$25 per year for full "CD" Service

College Theatre

UCLA new \$2 million theatre arts building which will contain a 600 seat playhouse and a 200 seat playhouse will start in late Oct. John Houseman's professional group will present O'Casey's I Knock on the Door and Pictures in the Hallway in Oct., Paul Shyre to direct.

Loeb Drama Center, Harvard, opened with student production of Troilus and Cressida Oct 14. Small backstage fire previous week damaged black velour backdrop and wiring at loss of \$2000.

Catholic University Theatre, Washington, D. C. opens season Oct 28 with Mary of Scotland. Also to be presented are-- Phedre, The Town of Sheepwell by Lope de Vega and the Night of the Burning Pestle.

Brenden Behan lectured at Experimental Theatre, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, NY... Franchot Tone lectured at Elmira, NY, College on "An Actor's Approach to Mark Twain"... Robert Brustein, New Republic, and Arthur Knight, Saturday Review, will lecture in Univ of Minn series "The Critic, The Artist and the Public."

Award Dept

John van Druten Playwrighting Contest of UCLA to present annual award of \$1000 for best full-length play not professionally performed or previously a contest winner. Judges include John Houseman, Paul Green, and John Beaufort, Christian Science Monitor.

Rodgers & Hammerstein Award of \$1000 to be presented to person who does most for theatre in 1960 in five state area of Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Arkansas. Competition open to college, community and commercial theatres. Stanley Marcus, Dallas, chairman of selection committee.

Community Theatres

Feast of Panthers a new play about Oscar Wilde by Tom Del Vecchio to be presented in Nov by Arena Players, Seaford, NY and in Dec by Idlewild Players, Idlewild Airport, NY. both times featuring Seaford high school drama teacher Frederic De Feis in leading role.



Winter Repertory

Alley Theatre, Houston, opened first season under Ford Repertory Grant with The Library Raid a new play by Francis Cagliano, NY playwright resident during the production... Playhouse in the Park, Cincinnati opened 1st season at 182 seat theatre in Eden Park building with Compulsion, David Marlin Jones director... Roslyn, NY Theatre opens winter season Nov 30 with Robbin Bain and Al Bernie in Two for the See-Saw.

Trouble in the Flesh a new play about Eugene O'Neill by Ketti Frings adapted from Max Wyllie's novel to be presented this season at Coconut Grove, Fla. Playhouse, Owen Phillips and George Engle co-producers... 1984 adaption of the George Orwell novel by Robert Owen to be presented next fall at Dallas Theatre Centre. Script optioned for both NY and London production by Wilton Hall, Jr.

New Theatres

Fisher Theatre, Detroit, will be converted from a motion picture house to a legit theatre to seat 1600 for plays and 2100 for musicals. Shubert, Detroit, will be torn down for parking lot or converted into stores, and Rivera, Detroit, will revert back to films. Fisher Theatre will be ready for legit shows in Aug 1961.

AETA News

Educational and Summer Theatre Productions Photography Exhibit will be held in Aug 1961 at NY Public Library in conjunction with Silver Jubilee Convention of AETA at Waldorf Astoria. Groups are invited to enter exhibit, all items to be kept as part of permanent Theatre Collection of NY Public Library.

London

Florence Rand, co-producer of current Off Broadway revival of Here Come the Clowns, to present Philip Barry play in London also.

British Art Council distributed \$4,200,000 in government funds last year to repertory theatres, national ballet and opera companies and major symphony orchestras, annual report details. Sir William Emrys Williams, secretary general, pointed out amount was one of smallest for European countries and that without these funds there would be no repertory theatre at all outside London. Williams urged approval of building of a national theatre in London by April 1964.

Calendar- Tryouts

Advise & Consent- National, Washington 10/18

Camelot- O Keefe, Toronto 10/1.

49th Cousin- Locust, Philadelphia 10/10

Invitation to a March- Colonial Boston 10/10

Period of Adjustment- Walnut, Philadelphia 10/17

Rape of the Belt- Wilbur, Boston 10/19

Taffy- Shubert, New Haven 10/19

Unsinkable Molly Brown- Shubert Philadelphia 9/26

Calendar- Current Tours

Best Man- Alcazar- San Fran-

Destry Rides Again- Philharmonic- Los Angeles 9/26

Fiorello- Shubert- Chicago-

Five Finger Exercise- Ford's Balti more 10/17

Flower Drum Song- State Fair Dallas 10/7

J B- Playhouse, Wilmington- 10/19

Majority of One- Erlanger, Chicago

Music Man- American, St Louis 10/10

My Fair Lady- Her Majesty's Theatre -Montreal- 10/3

Raisin in Sun- Cass, Detroit

10/17 World of Suzie Wong- Auditorium Dayton 10/20

Europe

Poland, West Germany and Israel rights to The Wall already granted with productions expected this season. Hebrew translation of novel was made in 1952.



DRAMA

DESK

REPORTS

LATE NYC
NEWS &
REVIEWS

Eight authors and artists guests of first "Drama Desk" meeting told NY theatre editors and reporters that the creative artist in the theatre should participate in and speak out on political matters. Guests included--Brendan Behan, Bette Davis, Lorraine Hansberry, Mike Nichols and Elaine May, Harriet Parsons, Tom Poston and Peggy Wood.

Behan reminded that "McCarthyism" is not original sin on the part of American people. Theatre workers should subscribe heavily to see that families of theatre people do not suffer from McCarthyism in any country. Author stated that he was recently was attacked by the Irish Prime Minister for earning money by holding Ireland up to ridicule, to which he answered that such earnings help pay the politician's salary via taxes.

Davis pointed out that actors occupy a position of influence because he is trained in communications, he has contact with many people who may be guided by what he says and does. She was active in California politics during the Stevenson campaigns, but not the current campaign.

Hansberry admitted her views on politics effects her writings, and doubted if there is any such thing as a play that hasn't a thesis. She fears the "McCarthyism" era of blacklists in theatre and films forced an enormous price.

Wood herself has never been the victim of being denied employment because of her political views, but she has seen some very curious looks. The attitude that actors like children should be seen and not heard is nonsense.

Parsons in her career as an RKO producer and now as co-producer of The Rape of the Belt never let politics influence her attitude in hiring employees. While she feels the creative artist has an obligation to participate in politics, she would draw the line at hiring a known Communist.



INTER -

VIEW

HI-LITES

ROBERT WHITEHEAD, newly elected president of League of NY Theatres, has three major objectives for his administration, he told Little, Herald Tribune. Tax relief, a new contract with the Dramatists Guild and revision of contracts with star actors who work on percentages. Currently stars get from 5 to 15%, which totals for a sell-out musical \$5000 to \$10,000 per week. These contracts must be readjusted for now the producer has the smallest margin of profit with the highest theatre tickets in history.

TYRONE GUTHRIE, whose next project is direction in Canada of Broadway bound Love and Libel, will prepare for his repertory theatre at Univ of Minn named in his honor, he told Schiff, Post. It is a project close to his heart because the legit theatre is too much centralized in one or two metropolitan cities, with very serious results. America has very little tradition for professional productions outside of NY, whereas in NY there is the wild situation of overcompetition and oversupply. This is the first time in 40 years that a community has evidenced the desire to have a company of metropolitan quality. As to why he went to work in theatre in the first place he believes that basically the reason that anyone wants to be in theatre is to be in a much-ordered world of fantasy, the desire to make something and be part of this organized world.

LATE NYC NEWS: 7 30 PM Wed curtain for Broadway productions will be continued, League of NY Theatres announced after a special meeting following shift of the six David Merrick productions back to the 8 30 PM Wed start. Producers agreed that test, now in its sixth week, has been too short to evaluate. Business this past Wed had picked up and suburban newspapers had given the plan their support.

... Taffy cancelled New Haven tryout and will open Oct 26 in Philadelphia. . . The Rape of the Belt will open Nov 2 at the Martin Beck instead of the ANTA, allowing Thurber Carnival to remain until Dec 31, when it may go to London with James Thurber in the cast.... Nancy Olson will play opposite David Wayne in Send Me No Flowers, now set to open Dec 5 at Atkinson... Walter Matthau to star in Sam Spewack's new play Once There Was a Russian due Feb 8 presented by Leonard Key-Morton Segal-Kenneth Schwartz... Barbara Stanton added to The Mousetrap... Dream Play by Strindberg to be presented Nov 22 at Theatre East by John Bowman-Richard Roffman, producers of Dance of Death. . . Jerry Orbach left The Fantasticks to make "Mad Dog Coll" film in NYC, he will be replaced for two weeks by Gene Rupert, Valmouth, who will then portray the same role in the Palm Beach, Fla production. Howard Keel may also play role in NY prior to appearing in London production Adlai Stevenson will appear at a theatre rally at 6 pm Oct 17 at Morosco Theatre.

Drums Under the Window -Cherry Lane 10/13. 5 pros-Times, Mirror, Post, Journal American, World Telegram & Sun-and 1 con-Herald Tribune- filed on Paul Shyre's adaptation of Sean O'Casey's third autobiographical work presented by the Torquay Company staged by Shyre with Martyn Green, Dana Elcar, William Windom, Pauline Flanagan. Affirmative reviewers noted play was episodic and not well intergrated, but all felt language of O'Casey plus fine acting portrayals made work stimulating. Sole negative felt Shyre, director and adaptor of the two other O'Casey autobiographies, "I Knock On the Door" and "Pictures in the Hallway" missed this time in translating the novel to the stage. Taubman, Times, cheered excellent adaption and direction of jest and infinite fancy with O'Casey's glow, though the Irish accents were a bit scrambled the acting was effective. Though not a proper play there is a kind of exhilarating drama in O'Casey's very gift of gab, Times man concluded. Coleman, Mirror, rated it a stimulating and gripping evening of theatre which caught the excitement and flavor of the period, with Flanagan outstanding in fine cast. Post aisle-man Watts admitted arrangement of mass of material does not always work dramatically but the important thing is that so much of O'Casey's spirit is there. Staged more as a play than the other works it is excellently cast and well played. Aston, WTS, liked the earlier works better, but still enjoyed this spellbinder, also rating Flanagan as tops. McClain, Journal American, impressed with current edition as the most compelling installment in the series, adapted and directed with such grace and sensitivity. Reviewer thinks it is impossible for O'Casey to write a dreary line, and much of the material is amazingly current; the company first rate.



GREEN
ROOM
DEPARTMENT



PROS & CONS BY TMK

7 30 VIEWS... Nobody can figure the commuter for whom the Wed early curtain was invented, ponders Sylvester, News. Apparently he eats in the afternoon, sees his show and is glad to get home an hour early to watch late TV... Half and half plan by which half of the Broadway shows would be presented at 7 30 and the rest at 8 30 PM suggested as an alternative by David Merrick to *Calta, Times*... Other Broadway producers harshly criticized Merrick's action before a League of NY Theatres meeting, reports Little, Herald Tribune. Though many did admit Wed business was down, they felt a two or three month test was needed... 32 letters, 30 phone calls and 1 telegram received by League all protesting Merrick's move back to 8 30 PM, details *Calta, Times*.

COLUMN TIPS... Ginger Rogers to file suit with Equity to get wages for Broadway flop last season, hear s Kilgallen, *Journal American*... Frank Loesser has commissioned Brenden Behan to write an opera, reports Lyons, Post.

CRITICAL THOUGHTS... 4 out of 9 good shows so far this season is not a bad average for early Oct, rates McClain, *Journal American*... Robb, *World Telegram & Sun*, hopes to survive long enough to see Broadway work its way out of the red light district... Good old fashioned burlesque would be nice and fitting with the current Broadway shows, sighs Sobol, *Journal American*... Now that David Merrick has brought to town Becket, *A Taste of Honey* and *Irma La Douce*, it is time for a new attack on him as a bad influence in the theatre, predicts Watts, Post.

BROADER PARK PLANS... Productions of Shakespearean and other classics in NY City Parks in Queens, Bronx, Brooklyn, Staten Island as well as Central Park urged by Taubman, *Times*. Advantages of a park circuit for Joe Papp's NY Shakespeare Festival are that each production could be an entity prepared by separate forces, more theatre people would be employed and would gain experience in Shakespeare, and at the end of the summer there would be three complete productions ready to tour city high schools. Critic also suggested that together with city and private funds, a small admission charge would help improve and expand the operation. For those who could not afford even that, method could be found for them to get free tickets.

SECOND GUESSES... *Irma La Douce* is a French sex farce in a new and saucy guise, marks Chapman, News... While Kerr, *Herald Tribune*, lists that he did not care much for the new musical and he did not think it was dirty (critic expressed apologies to producer for he realizes he couldn't have said anything worse)... Wilson, Post, reports idea for ad quoting columnists branding musical as "dirty" has been dropped... Watts, Post, would be happy to drop in at French show nightly just to watch the "Disc Donc" number, the very spirit of a joyful musical comedy.

THEATRE BOOK COMMENTS... "Theatre World" new edition continues to be an attractive pictorial record of the previous season, recommends Watts, Post.

THEATRE RECORD COMMENTS... The Fantasticks original cast album (MGM) leaves listener impressed but is not entirely satisfying, rates Wilson, *Times*, who would have rather had complete recording of songs and text... *Oh Kay* Off Broadway production cast album (20th Century Fox) approved as a noble relic of the 1920s by Times man.

The Wall is a terrifying dramatic experience, brilliantly acted by its large cast and ingeniously plotted and directed so as never to be in bad taste and/or a sermon. The web of the story seems a bit diffuse at the start, but slowly the characters become definite, the historic situation is set and the battle is enacted before the audience's mind and heart. Not an entertaining evening, but certainly a stimulating one that should make even the most smug think.

* * *

Becket is a fascinating dramatic spectacle in the classic style with superb characterizations by its two stars and by its army of leading players. The full three hour drama does seem to drag now and then, but it is filled with so many touching moments and sardonic, witty scenes that it is continually interesting. The sets and costumes are breath-taking and worth the price just to see them. Students of current French affairs will be able to spot Anouilh's wry comments on contemporary French leaders, and even headline readers will spot a few.

* * *

Laughs and Other Events was a reflection on the lack of imagination of NY Producers. The charming English actor, age 70, seen in NYC in only two plays, could not wait for someone to invent a role for him, so he put together a do-it-yourself English vaudeville hall routine. But somehow he forgot to hire the rest of the bill. As pleasant as he is, a full evening of story type songs and poems, all written by a sort of English Eugene Fields, is a little much. As part of a full evening's vaudeville a forty minute act would have been perfect.

* * *

Valmouth is, according to a mimeographed program note, "A light hearted parable of sinful Old Age in search of the innocent joys of Youth." Somehow this late date was not spread backstage for everyone involved seems as confused as the audience. The pleasant Sandy Wilson music is drowned by the over-cute book and lyrics, also by Wilson. The nightmare plot and set of characters to match lack humor, charm and style.

* * *

The Russian roulette aspect to the 7 30 PM Wed curtain dispute suggested by David Merrick, of drawing lots to see which shows would open each week at 7 30 and 8 30 PM is so insane it might even work.

* * *

Theatre organizations and individuals should not let the newly appointed NY State Council of Arts committee go unaided. Gov. Rockefeller is asking for ways and means of how the state can encourage the appreciation and participation in the performing arts. So tell them already.

* * *

Trend Spotters Dept: Up to the moment no new American plays and/or musicals have been successful this season. The British have a huge headstart on the season, On and Off Broadway.

* * *

Prime Minister Nehru was only UN leader to attend NY theatre seeing--*The Best Man*, *Becket* and *West Side Story*. Next time somebody should have guts enough to arrange a theatre program for the world leaders attending the opening of the UN Assembly without the fear of being called a left-winger.

Oct 17, 1960 THEATRE FACT CHART--CRITICAL DIGEST--139 E 47, NYC EL 5-6894

Theatre Fact Chart presents up-to-minute data on current business and critical reaction on current Broadway and Off Broadway shows. Top week-end prices and opening dates are listed.

SUBSCRIBERS ONLY may write or phone for any other specific critical data and/or for specific details of late NYC reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews.

"C"- Critical figures refer to percentage of PRO votes filled by 7 NYC daily newspaper reviewers. PRO means show was recommended for entertaining and/or stimulating even- ing, not if critic predicted if show would be a commercial hit (earn back investment.)

"B"- Business- figures refer to percentage of gross ticket sales last week and indicates current availability of tickets. Figures that follow, all in thousands of dollars, are gross capacity (CAP) and corrected Variety grosses of past week and preceding weeks. Thus 10% B- Cap \$80--\$80 \$76 \$75 -means show was a sellout last week at \$80,000, the previous week's gross was \$76,000, etc

BECKET St James \$7.50 10/5/60	246 W 44 LA 4-4664	90% C- 4 raves- 1 Con- Times 100% B- Cap \$59--\$59
BEST MAN Morosco \$7.50 3/31/60	235 W 45 CI 6-6230	100% C- 7 pro- 3 raves 95% B- Cap \$40--\$38 \$34 \$36 \$39 \$35
BYE BYE BIRDIE Beck \$8.60 4/14/60	302 W 45 CI 6-6363	90% C- 1 Con- Times- rest all raves 100% B- Cap \$58--\$57 \$56 \$58 \$57 \$58
FIORELLI,O! Broadhurst \$9.40 11/23/59	235 W 44 CI 6-6699	100% C- 5 raves- Post, WTS milder book 100% B- Cap \$58--\$58 \$57 \$58 \$58 \$56
GYPSY Imperial \$9.40 5/21/59	249 W 45 CO 5-2412	100% C- 7 pro- J Am milder on book 80% B- Cap \$64--\$50 \$43 \$51 \$51 \$44
HOSTAGE Court \$7.50 9/20/60	138 W 48 CI 5-4289	60% C- 4 Pro- H Trib, Post, Mir, WTS 50% B- Cap \$40--\$22 \$20 \$24
IRMA LA DOUCE Plymouth \$8.60 9/28/60	236 W 45 CI 6-9156	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 100% B- Cap \$48--\$48 \$48
LA PLUME Royale \$8.05 11/11/58	242 W 45 CI 5-5760	100% C- 6 raves- Times milder 75% B- Cap \$45--\$35 \$30 \$35 \$36 \$32 \$34
MIKE & ELAINE Golden \$6.90 10/8/60	246 W 45 CI 6-6740	100% C- 7 pro for revue Cap \$30
MIRACLE WORKER Playhouse \$7.50 10/19/59	137W 48 CI 5-6060	100% C- 5 raves-Times, WTS milder 95% B- Cap \$36--\$33 \$28 \$32 \$35 \$33
MUSIC MAN Majestic \$8.05 12/19/57	245 W 44 CI 6-0730	100% C- 6- Raves- H Trib milder 65% B- Cap \$70--\$42 \$34 \$43 \$40 \$36
MY FAIR LADY Hellinger \$8.05 3/15/56	235 W 51 PL 7-7064	100% C- 7 raves Play-News OK P Charl 70% B- Cap \$70--\$51 \$48 \$52 \$54 \$50
SOUND OF MUSIC Lunt \$9.90 11/16/59	205 W 44 JU 6-5555	90% C- 1 Con- H Trib- 3 raves 100% B- Cap \$75--\$76 \$76 \$76 \$76 \$76
TAKE ME ALONG Shubert \$9.40 10/22/59	225 W 44 CI 6-5910	90% C- 1 Con- Mir- 2 raves-News, WTS 80% B- Cap \$64--\$52 \$45 \$53 \$51 \$41
TASTE OF HONEY Lyceum \$6.90 10/4/60	149 W 45 JU 6-9854	80% C- 2 Con- News, Mir 50% B- Cap \$32-- \$17
TENTH MAN Booth \$7.50 11/5/59	222 W 45 CI 6-5969	100% C- 7 pro-2 raves-Times, News 65% B- Cap \$32--\$22 \$17 \$19 \$26 \$23
THURBER CARNIVAL ANTA \$7.50 2/26/60	245 W 52 CI 6-6270	100% C- 6 raves- Mir milder 50% B- Cap \$49--\$27 \$20 \$24 \$29 \$26
TOYS IN ATTIC Hudson \$7.50 2/25/60	141 W 44 JU 6-2237	100% C- 5 raves-Times, J Am milder 60% B- Cap \$40--\$25 \$17 \$21 \$27 \$23
THE WALL Rose \$7.50	208 W 41 WI 7-5510	40% C- 3 Pro-raves-Times, News, WTS Cap \$46
WEST SIDE STORY W Garden \$8.05 4/27/60	1674 Bway CI 5-4876	100% C- 7 pro on return of musical 55% B- Cap \$64--\$36 \$30 \$35 \$42 \$44

TV THEATRE PROGRAMS

Oct 22- CBS- The Disenchanted- on Show of Month
Oct 24- NBC- Shangri-La on Hall of Fame
Nov 16- CBS- Heaven can Wait on Show of Month
Nov 20- NBC- Macbeth on Hall of Fame with Judith Anderson
Dec 8- NBC- Peter Pan with Mary Martin
Jan 8- CBS- "The Gershwin Years"
Feb 7- NBC- Time Remembered on Hall of Fame

"CD" PROS & CONS

PROS: Becket, Best Man, Bye Bye Birdie, Gypsy, Hostage, La Plume, Miracle Worker, Music Man, My Fair Lady, Take Me Along, Taste of Honey, Thurber Carnival, Toys in Attic, West Side Story

Balcony, Country Scandal, Deep Are Roots, Greenwich Village, The Idiot, Krapps Last Tape, Leave It to Jane, Little Mary, 3 Penny

CONS: Sound of Music, Tenth Man--Here Comes Clowns, La Ronde, Sign of Jonah, Vaimouth

OFF BROADWAY

BALCONY Circle \$4.50 3/3/60	159 Bleecker GR 3-4950	3 Pro- Times, Post, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, News, J Am
COUNTRY SCANDAL G Mews \$3.90 5/5/60	131 W 13 CH 3-6800	6 Pro- No Mirror Sat to Thur- No Fri
DANCE OF DEATH Key \$3.60 9/13/60	4 St Marks GR 5-9748	2 Pro- Times, WTS 3 Con- H Trib, Post, J Am
DEEP ARE ROOTS St Marks \$3.60 10/3/60	133-2nd Av OR 4-3530	5 Pro- 1 Con- Post- No Mirror
DRUMS UNDER WINDOW C. Lane \$4.60 10/13/60	38 Comm CH 2-4289	See Supplement Digest
GREENWICH VILLAGE USA 1 Sher Sq \$4.50 9/28/60	1 Sher Sq UN 9-1334	4 Pro- H Trib, Post, J Am, WTS 1 Con- Times
FANTASTICKS Sullivan \$4.60 5/3/60	181 Sullivan OR 4-3838	5 Pro- 1 Con- H Trib- No Mirror
HERE COME CLOWNS Actors Play \$4.60 9/19/60	100-7th Av S OR 5-1036	4 Pro- Times, News, Post, J Am 3 Con- H Trib, Mir, WTS
HMS PINAFORE Phoenix \$4.60 9/7/60	189-2nd Av OR 4-7160	7 Pro- Final Week
THE IDIOT Gate \$3.90 9/25/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-8796	5 Pro- 1 Con- News-No Mir-Final Week
KITTIWAKE ISLAND Martineau \$4.90 10/12/60	32 & Bway PE 6-3056	See Digests Page 2
KRAPP'S LAST TAPE Cricket \$4.50 1/14/60	162-2nd Av OR 4-3960	6 Pro- No Mirror
LA RONDE T Marquee \$3.90 5/9/60	110E 59 PL 3-2575	1 Pro- WTS (rave) 5 Con- All mild- No Mirror
LEAVE IT TO JANE Sher Sq \$5/25/59	99-7th Av S CH 2-9244	5 Pro- 2 Con- H Trib, News
LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE Orpheum \$4.95 11/18/59	126-2nd Av OR 4-8140	6 Pro- 4 raves- No Mirror
SIGN OF JONAH Players \$3.90 8/6/60	115 MacDoug AL 4-5076	4 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post, WTS 2 Con- News, J Am
3 PENNY OPERA De Lys \$4.85 9/20/54	121 Chris WA 4-8782	3 Pro- Times, H Trib, Post
VALMOUTH York \$5.75 10/6/60	64 & 1st TR 9-4130	7 Con-
LIVING REPERTORY Living \$3.45	530-6th Av CH 2-4569	Connection- 5 con-1 pro-Post 7/5/59 Theatre Chance-1 pro- post- 6/22/60

NYC THEATRE CALENDAR

Shoemaker & Peddler-East 74-10/14
Sheperds on Shelf- Blackfriars- 10/14
Tenderloin- 46th St 10/17
Darwin's Theories- Mad Av 10/18
Face of a Hero- O'Neill- 10/20
49th Cousin- Ambassador- 10/25
Invitation to a March- M Box 10/26
Man & Superman- Gate 10/30
Behind the Wall- Jan Hus 10/31

She Stoops to Conquer- Phoenix 11/1
Rape of the Belt- ANT A 11/2
Kukla, Burke & Ollie- Astor Hotel 11/2
Unsinkable m Brown- W Garden - 11/3
The Mousetrap- Maidman- 11/5
Hedda Gabler- 4th St 11/9
Period of Adjustment- Hayes 11/10
Open Up Your Heart- 11/10
Rosemary (Off)- 11/14
Under Yum Yum Tree-Miller 11/16
Advise & Consent- Cort - 11/17
Taffy- 11/23
Tree Grows Bikeyn- Bar Plaza 11/28
Ideal- (Off)- 11/28
All the Way Home- Belasco 11/30
Love & Libel- 11/30
Donogoo- G Mews- 11/?

3 Short Plays- Village Gate 11/?

Little Moon Alban-Longacre 12/1
Camelot- Majestic- 12/3
Send Me No Flowers-Atkinson 12/3
Critic's Choice- Barrym 12/4
Wildcat- Alvin 12/15
What A Killing- York 12/22
Do Re Mi-St James- 12/26
The Tiger Rag- 12/?

The Hero- ANTA 1/5
Rhinoceros- 1/5
Show Girl- 1/14
Love & Death- 1/15
I'm With You- 2/1
Faust- C Center 2/7
3 Daughters- 2/9
Comedi Francaise-C Center 2/21
The Caretaker- Miller 2/1
Red Roses for Me- G Mews 2/?



\$25 check

Bill Co

This weekly NYC THEATRE NEWSLETTER DIGEST SERVICE now in its 11th year to theatre teachers, students, professionals- college drama departments, community theatres, college and public libraries- presents each week of the year a concise 15 minute summary of all theatre news, comments, reviews, etc- published in the past week's 2100 pages of 7 NYC daily newspapers. Plus weekly "Outer Broadway Theatre Letter" supplement giving exclusive coverage of outstanding College, Community, Summer theatre productions coast to coast. Also free critical research on specific data and/or specific details of late NYC theatre reviews and Out of Town tryout reviews via mail, phone. \$25 per year for full service. Back volumes available from Oct 1956-\$25 each. "CD" is the perfect theatre gift.

Name.....Address.....

Organization.....City, State.....

